



## **FRIENDS NEWSLETTER: ELLISVILLE MARSH RESTORATION PROJECT JUNE 1, 2009**

*This newsletter is produced on a periodic basis to keep members of the Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc., apprised of developments and opportunities to become involved.*

### **PLEASE JOIN US AT THE FRIENDS' ANNUAL MEETING**

**The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc. will be held on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am in the Community Room of the Cedarville Fire Station. Members of the board of directors will provide highlights of the past year's activities and accomplishments. Coffee and donuts will be available. Come hear what your organization is doing to bring Ellisville Marsh back to its former, healthy state and how you can become more involved in its comeback!**

### **FRIENDS' VOLUNTEERS LEND SUPPORT TO MARSH, BEACH & PARK CLEAN-UP**

A clean-up crew from the Friends of Ellisville Marsh fanned out across the Wildlands Trust's Shifting Lots Preserve in Ellisville on April 25<sup>th</sup>, gathering a large pile of refuse, tires and other debris winter left behind in the marsh and on Ellisville beach. A second Friends' crew participated in the annual Park Serve Day at Ellisville Harbor State Park held the same day.



*Photo courtesy of Friends member Susan Slowey*

## **RESTORATION PROJECT RECEIVES SECOND GRANT FROM ENTERGY**

We are pleased to announce that Entergy Corporation has awarded the Ellisville Marsh Restoration Project another \$5,000 grant, bringing their total support over the past two years to \$30,000. Entergy was recently named one of the top ten corporate citizens in the United States. The full list of the top 100 companies honored can be found on the Internet at:

<http://www.thecro.com/files/CRO100BestCorporateCitizensList2009.pdf>.

Sincere thanks and congratulations to our restoration partner, Entergy.

## **PERMIT APPLICATIONS FILED WITH MASSDEP TO RELOCATE INLET**

In the next few weeks, two permit applications prepared on our behalf by LEC Environmental Consulting, Inc. will be submitted to the Massachusetts DEP. A Chapter 91 Waterways license and Section 401 Water Quality Certification are both needed to move forward with the relocation of the inlet to its historical position just south of the state park rock jetty. The permit applications include project plans that were updated by Land Management Systems, Inc. to reflect changes requested by state agencies during the interagency review we participated in from October to January. The MassDEP review process could take between three and six months before permits are issued. The final permit needed is a federal discharge permit issued by the US Army Corps of Engineers, which has authority over coastal waterways. We expect to file our permit application with the Corps within the next few months.

### **Did you know that eels and sea moss were once harvested at Ellisville?**

Historical accounts of eel fishing exist. And at least one of our members, director Bob Goldthwaite, worked in the sea moss business during summers in his youth.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES GALORE!**

During the interagency review process it became clear that the MassDEP will place conditions on the Friends when it issues permits allowing the inlet relocation. We have identified several data gathering requirements and are forming volunteer teams for the following environmental research programs at Ellisville marsh:

- Threatened Birds Program
- Shellfish Survey
- Wetlands Vegetation Monitoring
- Offshore Eelgrass Monitoring
- Water Quality Sampling / Hydrology Data Collection
- Fin Fish Data Collection
- Beach Elevation Monitoring
- Photographic Documentation of Inlet
- Shoaling /sandbars in Ellisville Harbor

### **Familiar with Excel Spreadsheets?**

The Friends are looking for a volunteer to take over as Membership Secretary for the membership year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. Responsibilities include opening mail, depositing checks, and updating the membership list. Basic familiarity with Excel is required; no fancy stuff. Please email Friends president Eric Cody ([Eric@EllisvilleMarsh.org](mailto:Eric@EllisvilleMarsh.org)) for more information if you are interested.

Most of these programs require a modest commitment of only a day or two per year and data gathering is done mainly during the summer months. If you would like to be involved with any of these programs, or would like to learn more, please email us at [Info@EllisvilleMarsh.org](mailto:Info@EllisvilleMarsh.org) and the director most closely involved with your program of interest will contact you to discuss what's involved.

## **ELLISVILLE MARSH BIRD CHECKLIST**

The following birds have been sighted at Ellisville marsh and beach since April 1st (*thanks to Paula Marcoux, Friends director and bird watcher, and Mass Audubon's Coastal Waterbird Program staff for their extra pairs of eyes*):

American Black Duck	Great Egret	Mute Swan
American Crow	Greater Yellowlegs	Northern Mockingbird
American Goldfinch	Green Heron	Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole	Green-winged Teal	Osprey
Barn Swallow	Herring Gull	Red-breasted Merganser
Belted Kingfisher	Hooded Merganser	Red-tailed Hawk
Black-bellied Plover	Horned Lark	Ring-billed Gull
Brant	House Finch	Rough-winged Swallow
Canada Goose	Killdeer	Sanderling
Common Eider	Laughing Gull	Snowy Egret
Common Loon	Least Tern	Tree Swallow
Common Tern	Mallard	Turkey Vulture
Great Black-backed Gull	Merlin	Yellow Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Mourning Dove	



### **Can You Identify this Current Visitor to Ellisville Beach?**

As many as 30 of these birds have recently been seen feeding along the wrack line at Ellisville Beach. At 11-13" tall they are the largest type in their family, shy by nature, and fly off if approached. Ellisville is a layover for these birds migrating to their nesting grounds in the Arctic. Give up? Send an email to [Info@EllisvilleMarsh.org](mailto:Info@EllisvilleMarsh.org) and we'll send you his name.

*(Thanks to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology for granting permission to use this photo)*

### **To CONTACT THE BOARD OR SHARE YOUR IDEAS:**

Please email us at [Board@EllisvilleMarsh.org](mailto:Board@EllisvilleMarsh.org) . We value your ideas and inputs.